

## **GCIT's Statewide Telecommunications Infrastructure Planning Organization**



### **Proposed Committee Activities**

Define Statewide Telecom Policy Issues and Outline Solutions

Act as a Statewide Forum for Stakeholders

Provide Strategic Planning

Become a Nexus for Telecom Funding

Coordinate with:

- State Government Leadership

- TOPAZ initiatives (State and Local demand aggregation)

- Telecom Application Providers

- Carriers and Technology Vendors

- Regional Councils (Eleven Extant or proposed - per Commerce)

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

As critical infrastructure, telecommunications undergirds all aspects of economic development in the private sector, most government processes, and at all levels of education activity. Hence, the Committee's make-up reflects an emphasis on the positive outcomes of telecommunications policy rather than focusing on regulatory or technology issues of the telecom industry itself. The Committee will have access to telecom policy experts via the collective experience and background of the Committee's individual members and through its close association with Arizona Telecommunications Information Council (ATIC), as directed by GCIT's December 2003 report to the Governor.

The following narrative describes the stakeholders that will be represented on the subcommittee.

**GITA Director** - By statute, the Director of GITA is responsible for maintaining and disseminating Technology standards to State Government. The Director of GITA is also responsible for the Telecommunications Policy Office, established in 1995 as the Governor's Telecommunications Policy Office and later moved to GITA. He is rightfully appointed as Chair of this Committee. The Director of GITA is also a GCIT member.

**Department of Commerce Director** – By statute, the Director of the Commerce Department is responsible to “formulate policies, plans and programs designed to encourage orderly planning and stimulate economic activity”. As enumerated in statute, the Director also has responsibility for various infrastructure development programs, including telecommunications. The Directors involved in this committee is a key element for its. The Director of the Department of Commerce is also a GCIT member.

**A Large State Agency designee** – State Government is the single largest consumer of Telecom services in Arizona. As a large State agency, ADOT telecom needs are typical, in size and scope, of most large agencies. Additionally, the eventual map of the State's telecom resources will be an overlay the map of Arizona road system, because Highway and Telecom infrastructure have the same purpose, to tie people to each other. The same issues beset both sets of infrastructure, including issues of rights-of-way, scaling and segmentation, construction, future growth and planning, etc. However, transportation is years ahead in its planning and policy processes. Hopefully, as the issues held in common are confronted, through ADOT's experiences, telecom policy processes can be jump-started.

**Board of Regents designee** – Our Universities, especially as institutions of research, have unique and far reaching Telecom needs that impact the State as a whole. A carefully selected representative can positively represent the work of the Committee, both through articulating University based needs and helping to address solutions scaled to fit those needs. Because the Committee's size is limited to 20 members, it is requested that a Board of Regents designee be viewed as a shared resource for all three Universities. Each University has representation on GCIT, the committee's host.

**Community College System designee** – Community Colleges are key to Arizona's work force development. Distance-learning curriculum is fast becoming one of the single largest consumers

of available broadband resources, especially for smaller communities. It is recommended that a rural community college designee represent the interest of all community colleges on the committee.

**Financial Industry designee** – The funding of telecommunications projects is the single largest issue inhibiting the deployment of robust Broadband. Providing expertise in this area will be critical to the success of the Committee.

**Education K-12 designee** – In the last three years, the State has provided \$230 Million in technology funding for schools, to ostensibly connect Arizona's schools to the Internet. However, key to that connectivity is robust broadband. Such broadband barely exists in rural Arizona. A K-12 representative to the Committee will convey school needs to the Committee and be a key formulator of telecom policy to positively impact Arizona's schools as centers of learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Tribal Government designee** – Over one third of Arizona's geography is under the jurisdiction of separate and sovereign tribal governments, most of it in rural settings. Issues pertaining to rural telecom development are magnified by complex inter-governmental processes. Yet, without telecom development on tribal lands, Arizona's rural areas will never be successfully connected. The tribal representative to the committee will make sure policies and solutions advocated by the Committee, include tribal needs, including opportunities for tribal educational and economic development.

**Small Business representative** – Small business employs about 90% of Arizona's workforce. In an increasing global economy, high speed connection to the Internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity if small businesses are to prosper. Yet fifty percent of Arizona's rural communities have little or no access to competitively priced high speed connections. What connectivity resources that are available often get used first by government and by schools, leaving small businesses to fend individually for themselves. Their interests must be protected and highlighted.

**ISP - Telecom Industry representative** – After infrastructure and middle mile, the first layer of ownership of connectivity to the internet is the Internet Service Provider (ISP). Collectively ISP's are the primary distributors of both core applications and broadband resources. Any solutions or policies defined by this committee must have input and agreement from the ISP community.

**AzTech Council designee** – As the strongest voice in Arizona representing technology based businesses, an ATC member will provide two-way communication to the committee and to his or her constituencies. This will be especially important as solutions are presented to Arizona's policy makers.

**Southern Arizona Tech leader** - The State's TeleMedicine Council has already wrestled with many of the issues that will come before the Committee, especially as a repository of knowledge regarding funding and the complexities of rural infrastructure development.

**Large Employer (two members)** – Arizona’s attractiveness to Fortune 1000 companies needs constant evaluation. A large corporation’s ability to compete in global market from a venue in Arizona is, in large part, determined by its access to the critical resources of power, transportation and telecommunications. Members representing this constituency are absolutely necessary

**Rural Local (City or Town) Government designee** – The Committee, as stated before, should have a rural flavor. Most telecomm concerns quickly manifest themselves at a local government level. Solutions derived must take into account the needs of cities and towns, both as customers, and as policy arbiters.

**Rural County Government designee** – County Governments are the distribution point of most E-government applications and therefore, one of the largest consumers of rural broadband resources. County governments are also the only representative government for almost 500,000 of Arizona citizens, who live in unincorporated areas of the State. Their needs must be met.

**Rural Arizona Telecom Leaders** – Again, with the vast majority of issues and development needs in the rural areas of the State, an understanding of rural telecom issues should permeate the Committee’s discussions and deliberations.

**ATIC (Two members)** – Per the GCIT 2003 recommendations to the Governor, ATIC’s expertise and guidance will be critical to the success of the Committee.